GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4027
ANSWERED ON:09.04.2003
VILLAGE PUBLIC TELEPHONE
PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the status of roll out obligation of the basic Telephone operators (old licensees) towards village public telephones;

(b) whether the Government propose to waive of such obligations to the basic operators who migrated from NTP 1994 to NTP 1999; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUI MAHAJAN)

(a) According to the available information, the number of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) provided by six private basic service operators as on 31.03.2003 are as follows:

Sl. No.	Name of the Licensee	Service Area	No. of VPTs provided
1.	M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh	1314
2.	M/s Reliance Telecom Ltd.	Gujarat	3939
3.	M/s HFCL Infotel Ltd.	Punjab	831
4.	M/s Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Ltd.	Maharashtra	1894
5.	M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh	348
6.	M/s Shyam Telelink Ltd.	Rajasthan	1016
	total		9342

The figure in respect of Punjab is for replacement of faulty MARRas all villages were covered with VPTs before commencement of service by private operators.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.